GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2148
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
FIRST POSTAGE STAMP
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first postage stamp of the worlda copper ticketwas released on March 31,1774 from Patna during the tenure of East India Company;

(b) whether one of the said ticket/stamp is now in the British Museum in London and the other is the possession of the resident of Jabalpur ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the said ticket/stamp back to India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SH THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a) A copper ticket is known to have been introduced in Calcutta Post Office in January 1774. It was not the first postage stamp of the world. It was a copper token which was used for transmission of mail within the territories of the East India company. The first postage stamp of the world was. Penny Black issued in Great Britain in 1840.

(b) In view of (a) above, the details regarding availability of the said copper ticket/stamp which is in the British Museum and the other in the private possession of a person in Jabalpur is not known to the Department of Post.

(c) The Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Post is not empowered to deal with Indian artifacts retained in Museums abroad.